dispensary where services are rendered on payment of charges and also rendered free of charge to other persons availing such services would fall within the ambit of the expression 'service' as defined in Section 2(1) (o) of the Act irrespactive of the fact that the service is rendered free of charge to persons who do not pay for such service. Free service would also be "service" and the recipient a "consumer" udner the Act.

(11) Service rendered by a medical practitioner or hospital/nursing home cannot be regarded as service rendered free of charge, if the person availaing the service has taken an insurance policy for medical care whereunder the charges for consultation, diagnosis and medical treatment are borne by the insurance company and such service would fall within the ambit of 'service' as defined in Section 2(1) (o) of the Act.

(12) Similarly, where, as a part of the conditions of service, the employer bears the expenses of medical treatment of an employee and his family members dependent on him, the service rendered to such an employee and his family members by a medical practitioner or a hospital/nursing home would not be free of charge and would constitute service under Section 2(1) (o) of the Act.

Examination Days Fixed By Kashmir Universitty

547. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the date-Sheet promulgated by the Kashmir University for its examination, Fridays had been kept off while some papers had been fixed for Sundays;

(b) whether some papers of the examination had been fixed for 2nd October, the birthday of Mahatama Gandhi, which is a national holiday; and

(c) whether any suggestion was made to the University by the State Government or by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) the University of Kashmir, is situated adjacent to the Hazratbal Shrine, where there are large congregations of pilgrims on Fridays to offer prayers. In order to avoid any law & order situation, no examinations are generally conducted of Fridays.

(b) Due to oversight the University had fixed seme papers on October 2, 1995. But as soon as this was noticed, these were postponed and fixed for 28 October, 1995. No examination was held on 2nd October, 1995.

(c) No, Sir.

Central Assistance to J&K

548. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to over of the R.B.I. Bulletin, per capita central assistance given to Jammu and Kashmir during 1993-94 was Rs. 2,291 as against Rs. 192 to Bihar, Rs. 223 to Tamil Nadu, Rs. 304 to Rajasthan and Rs. 331 to U.P.;

(b) on what basis this per capita Central assistance to Jammu and Kashmir was decided;

(c) since when the Central assistance at this level is being disbursed to Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) whether Government propose to reduce this level of Central assistance to Jammu and Kashmir and if so, when and what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) R.B.I. has not published data